

## **Fallston Community Council Meeting Notes**

### **March 27, 2012**

Attendees: Dave Williams, Joyce Eaton, Andy Amasia, George Twigg, Tony Dec, Morita Bruce

Guests (and organization represented): Joe Woods (County Council District B), Lt. Joe VanSeeters (HC Sheriffs Office Northern Precinct), Ed Andrews III (Candidate for Judge), Beth Poggioli and Stephanie Flasch (Greater Fallston Association), Bill Colburn, A. Balto, Jonathan Goff and Laura Runyeon.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Dave Williams. Minutes from the January meeting were reviewed and approved. The next meeting will be May 22, 2012.

#### **Sheriff's Office**

Lt. VanSeeters said that two young people have been identified as suspects in the recent Fallston burglaries; one has been arrested and a warrant issued for the second. Burglaries are now going down. Open garage doors are a continuing problem, as they provide direct access to many homes as well as equipment and bicycles to steal. When people see something suspicious don't hesitate to call 911 or 410-692-7880.

Suggestions from attendees regarding traffic safety concerns were:

- Rochelle Drive needs a 3-way stop to handle the large amount of traffic from new development. Mr. Woods said Rochelle will get a speed study and recommended solutions, such as a speed trap or other improvements. Mr. Williams suggested FCC support this by writing a letter. It's believed that Martin Meadows (new development) is responsible for much of the speeding and added traffic.
- Pleasantville Road needs a speed trap for speed limit enforcement, especially during rush hour when volumes are high. Radar is appreciated.
- There is lots of heavy truck traffic on Route 152, especially 18-wheelers who may be avoiding the scales on I-83. Senator Barry Glassman and state officials have been contacted. The safety of students in schools along 152 is of special concern. Councilman Woods said he is talking with Mr. Moore on the Task Force for traffic safety, asking for speed checks a few days a month along 152. Chief Williams suggested posting scales on Route 152.

The opening of the new Southern Precinct was well attended. There will be a public open house this weekend also.

#### **Guest Speaker**

H. Edward Andrews, candidate for Judge of the Circuit Court, talked about his candidacy, qualifications and experience, and handed out informational flyers. Circuit Court Judge M. Elizabeth Bowen, appointed by Gov. O'Malley, did not attend.

#### **Old Business**

Councilman Joe Woods announced that Council members are interviewing for new staff assistants to replace current ones. Each new assistant will work directly for one council member via a temporary appointment that ends when that council member leaves. Auditors are also being hired. At present, the Council depends upon the County Executive's staff for legal and financial service; the Council needs its own staff so they can independently review proposed laws, deals, etc. Council staff are expected to have legal training, and it is hoped that one auditor will also report solely to the Council.

The public is invited to attend and watch the upcoming budget meetings. When asked if audits will be made public, Mr. Woods said yes, they are public information. The Council is

working on getting their own website (now accessed only through the County Executive's website). The new website is expected to be " HarfordCountyCouncil.gov. "

### **Old Business**

The Harford County Master Plan has been approved. Fallston did very well in the new Plan. Mr. Woods was thanked for his amendments, which addressed important Fallston community concerns about protecting our quality of life and environment.

### **New Business**

Mr. Amasia attended the Harford Land Trust Annual Meeting where he learned that they look for potential land to protect and work with state and local agencies to help preserve land and provide volunteers who improve park properties that the state can't afford to do. This is a great group and they would love more volunteers.

Harford County Historic Preservation Awards ceremony is May 11th; the public is invited.

The county's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan open house is March 28; the public is welcome to attend and submit comments and suggestions (may also be done online).

The Columbia Gas Project public meeting was announced. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) will hold a "EA pre-filing Environmental Review Process" public comment session on May 9 to learn the public's issues and concerns about the doubling of Columbia's current pipeline. The project is titled: "Line MB Loop Extension Project, Docket No. PF12-6-000". It proposes construction of 21.3 miles of pressurized 26-inch diameter pipeline going from Owing Mills to the Rutledge Compressor Station in Fallston. The right-of-way must be expanded so the new line is 25 feet from the old one and 15 feet from BG&E's existing power transmission lines.

The new (MB) line will parallel the existing (MA) line except near Fallston where it will run through a neighborhood built after the first line was constructed. The new route's "jog" puts it through people's back yard where takes out sheds, trees and possibly septic systems, and places it very close to some bedrooms. A resident of Preakness Drive said this could make his house unsellable if his septic system needs replacement because the gas line would eliminate his septic reserve. Property devaluation is also possible due to the restrictions the route imposes.

### **Good of the Council**

Mr. Williams said the Hess Road bridge substructure and piers have been tested but results aren't yet in. Watervale Bridge will be closed for a couple weeks for guardrail installation, and Carrs Mill's culverts will be next.

Ms. Flasch spoke about the "Built it Now" group advocating for Youths Benefit ES to be renewed/replaced. She asked FCC to push for the needed money to be included in Harford's budget. Ms. Poggioli explained there were serious concerns about the building's adequacy and that Greater Fallston Association believes updating this school is a higher priority than building a new Center for the Arts.

Everyone is invited to Greater Fallston Association's annual meeting on April 26.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Submitted by Morita Bruce and Dave Williams